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THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD  
FOR  
HEXAGON LAB SITE  
BRONX COUNTY, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the availability for public review of files comprising the administrative record for the selection of the removal action at the Hexagon Laboratory site. EPA seeks to inform the public of the availability of the record file at this repository and to encourage the public to comment on documents as they are placed in the record file.

The administrative record file includes documents which form the basis for the selection of a removal action at this site. Documents now in the record files include the Action Memorandum and the Community Relations Plan. Other documents will be added to the record files as site work progresses. These additional documents may include, but are not limited to, other technical reports, additional validated sampling data, comments and new data submitted by interested persons, and EPA responses to significant comments.

The administrative record is available for review during normal business hours at:

Fordham Library Center  
Bronx Reference Library  
2556 Bainbridge Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10458  
phone: (212) 220-6575

U.S.EPA - Region 2  
Woodbridge Avenue  
Edison, NJ  
phone: (908) 321-6608

Additional information is available for review during normal business hours at:

Guideline documents and  
technical literature

USEPA - Region 2  
Woodbridge Avenue  
Edison, NJ  
phone: (908) 321-6608

Written comments on the administrative record should be sent to:

Charles Fitzsimmons, OSC  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. EPA - Region 2  
Woodbridge Avenue  
Edison, NJ 08837  
(908) 321-6608

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The administrative record file includes documents which form the basis for the selection of a removal action at this site. Documents now in the record files include preliminary assessment and site investigation reports and the community relations plan. Other documents will be added to the record files as site work progresses. These additional documents may include, but are not limited to, the RI/FS report, other technical reports, additional validated sampling data, comments and new data submitted by interested persons, and EPA responses to significant comments.

The administrative record is available for review during normal business hours at:

Baychester Public Library  
2049 Asch Loop North  
Bronx, New York, New York  
phone: (212) 379-6700

U.S.EPA - Region 2  
Woodbridge Avenue  
Edison, NJ  
phone: (908) 321-6608

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Edison, NJ zip  
rephone

## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD INDEX

### INDEX

#### 1.0 SITE IDENTIFICATION

##### 1.3 Preliminary Assessment Report

#### 2.0 REMOVAL RESPONSE

##### 2.5 Action Memorandum

#### 10.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

##### 10.1 Community Relations Plan

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD  
HEXAGON LABORATORY SITE

INTERIM INDEX OF DOCUMENTS

Document No. : HEX 1.3001 - 1.3021  
Document Title: Removal Site Evaluation  
Document Date : August 6, 1992  
Category : Site Identification  
Author : Nick Magriples  
On-Scene Coordinator  
Technical Support Section  
Removal Action Branch  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Recipient : Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff  
Regional Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency

Document No. : HEX 2.5001-2.5013  
Document Title: Action Memorandum  
Document Date : September 4, 1992  
Category : Removal Response  
Author : Charles Fitzsimmons  
On-Scene Coordinator, Hexagon Lab Site  
Response and Prevention Branch  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Recipient : Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff  
Regional Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency

Document No. : HEX 2.5014-2.5025  
Document Title: Action Memorandum, Change of Scope of Response,  
Increase in Project Ceiling and Removal Action  
Restart  
Document Date : January 28, 1993  
Category : Removal Response  
Author : Charles Fitzsimmons  
On-Scene Coordinator, Hexagon Lab Site  
Response and Prevention Branch  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Recipient : Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff  
Regional Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency

Document No. : HEX 10.2001-10.2010  
Document Title: Community Relations Plan  
Document Date : September 4, 1992  
Category : Public Participation  
Author : Charles Fitzsimmons  
On-Scene Coordinator  
Response and Prevention Branch  
US Environment Protection Agency  
Recipient : K. Callahan, USEPA

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**AUG 6 1992** UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION II

DATE: Removal Site Evaluation for Hexagon Laboratories, Bronx, New York

SUBJECT: Nick Magriples, On-Scene Coordinator *Nick Magriples*  
Technical Support Section

FROM: File

TO: SITE I.D. No.: AD  
REMOVAL ASSESSMENT RANKING: 9

I. INTRODUCTION

On July 7, 1992, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Removal Action Branch, received a request from the Director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation to evaluate Hexagon Laboratories for Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Removal Action consideration.

Based on the available information, a significant threat to human health exists at Hexagon Laboratories. The potential for a catastrophic release of hazardous materials exists based on the types and quantities of materials present in the buildings, the excessive number of years that these materials have been stored, the deteriorated condition of some of the containers, the haphazard manner in which these materials are stored, and the continued problem with unauthorized entries onto the property. Large apartment complexes are located within a mile of the site. Numerous businesses surround the facility, and Highway I-95 and other main thoroughfares in the Bronx pass within several city blocks of the site.

II. SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

A. Site Description

1. Physical location

Hexagon Laboratories is an inactive facility located at 3536 Peartree Avenue in the Eastchester section of Bronx County, New York (see Figure 1). The site occupies approximately one-half of a city block. It is situated in a densely populated urban area with approximately 381,000 people living within a three-mile radius. The site is bordered by Tufo's Wholesale Dairy, Inc. to the east (adjoining building and parking lot), an apparently vacant building and lot to the south and southeast, and an active auto repair shop and auto salvage shop to the west, across Peartree Avenue.

It is reported that there are no potable water supply wells registered for the Eastchester/Baychester area of the Bronx. Non-potable water supply wells are registered.

## 2. Site characteristics

Hexagon was a chemical manufacturing firm which produced medicinal chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Fifty-five chemical compounds were reportedly manufactured by Hexagon during operational periods in 1986. Attachment A presents a partial list of these products. Hexagon began operation in 1946 and ended in 1988, when the company entered bankruptcy. The process at Hexagon included reactions, hydrogenation, crystallization, centrifuging, drying, and grinding. Raw materials and wastewaters were stored in aboveground and underground tanks, numbering approximately 27, and in a concrete lined drum storage area. Wastewaters underwent solvent separation and neutralization prior to discharge to the city sewer system.

Acids were reportedly generally stored in the aboveground tanks. Organic compounds were stored in underground tanks. The organic compounds stored included methyl chloride, furan, methanols, acetone, chloroethane, ethylene dichloride, toluene, xylene, heptane and cyclohexane.

The underground tanks are positioned in concrete-lined cavities excavated in bedrock. The capacities of these tanks range from 550 gallons to 3,000 gallons. The tanks are made of black iron (carbon steel) and stainless steel. It is reported that in 1986, there were 600 drums used for the storage of recyclable wastes.

In 1977, a tank test was performed on the underground storage tanks. Seven tanks failed the tests and reportedly were immediately taken out of service. The fill lines were cemented closed after all contents were pumped out.

An abandoned well on the Hexagon property that penetrates bedrock was measured to contain a 15-foot layer of liquid hydrocarbon floating on top of the water. No information is available as to the source of the contamination, although it is suspected that it may be from the many auto repair shops in the area.

## 3. Release or threatened release into the environment of a hazardous substance, or pollutant or contaminant

Attachment B and Attachment C are a list of raw materials used by Hexagon during their operations and a list of hazardous wastes generated, respectively. Some of the raw materials include diethyl ketone, furan, methylene chloride, phenol, propionic acid, triethylamine, sodium hydroxide and hexamethylene diamine. Some of the wastes generated include amdro waste, diisobutylene,



ethylene dichloride, paramethoxy phenyl acetic acid and still bottom waste. These materials are all either RCRA Characteristic for flammability or corrosivity, or specific RCRA F-code wastes.

A limited inventory of materials conducted by the NYCDEP in July of 1990 revealed the following in one of the stock rooms:

POISONS

bromobenzyl cyanide, brucine, benzoyl cyanide, potassium cyanide, methyl diisocyanate, ethyl cyanoacetate, benzyl aniline, acrylonitrile, diethyl sulfate

WATER REACTIVES

lithium amide, sodium aluminum diethyl dihydride, sodium methoxide, sodium borohydride, sodium methylate, lithium metal, sodium metal

REACTIVE

vinylidene chloride

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

anhydrous ammonia, boron trichloride, boron trifluoride, 1,3,-butadiene, carbon monoxide, chlorine, dimethyl amine, ethylene oxide, hydrogen bromide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen sulfide, isobutylene, methyl bromide, methyl chloride, monomethyl amine, sulfur dioxide, trimethyl amine, monoethyl amine

An inventory assembled by EPA personnel from July 29 through July 31, 1992 confirmed most of the above mentioned chemicals and discovered numerous others. It is estimated that there are approximately 600 containers and 2,500 laboratory chemicals at the Hexagon facility. Based on available information on the facilities operations, the chemicals in the buildings are raw materials, chemical intermediates, mother liquors and wastes from the former operation. Based on the inventories and other available information, the chemical hazards include; potentially explosive materials, shock sensitives, water and air reactives, poisonous gas cylinders, carcinogens, flammables, oxidizers and corrosives.

The majority of the materials listed in the above inventories are CERCLA designated Hazardous Substances, as listed in 40 CFR Table 302.4, either specifically or as unlisted hazardous waste characteristics.

Historical information reveals that there have been two documented releases at the Hexagon. On June 15, 1986, there was an indoor release of "toxic gas" from a reactor due to an operator error. There was no other readily available information on this release. On June 30, 1986, an n-n dimethylamine spill occurred at the facility. The cause of the spill was a ruptured

high-pressure release disk located on the roof of the building. Below the disk was a reaction vessel reportedly containing 3,110 pounds of n-n dimethylamine, 468 pounds of methylchloride and 2,340 pounds of isopropyl alcohol. When the disk ruptured, these chemicals were sprayed over Hexagon's yard and D & J Auto Wrecking yard. A worker on the D & J was reportedly splashed by the chemicals and suffered blisters on her arms. Additionally several cars and some pavement were damaged. Hexagon, under the oversight of the NYSDEC and the NYCDEP, conducted the cleanup. None of the material reportedly reached the sewers.

The mechanism for past releases at the site appears to have been spills, poor housekeeping practices, and improper storage practices. Past practices of concern at these facilities included improper storage of raw materials, byproducts and hazardous wastes. Visual observations of a "green" leachate have been noted in the past in the adjacent junkyard and during construction of an adjacent building.

The mechanism for future releases to the environment, include deterioration, improper disturbance and vandalism of the tanks, reactor vessels, ancillary piping, containers, laboratory chemicals and cylinders present at the site. A substantial fire and explosion hazard exists due to the materials present within the buildings. A release of these materials, in this manner could potentially be catastrophic. Cyanide compounds would combine with acids, poisonous cylinders and other reactive mixtures and produce fumes of highly toxic chemicals which would affect the densely populated area in which the site is located. Liquid materials, if released, could migrate from the warehouse storage area onto Peartree Avenue.

#### 4. Site assessment activities/observations

The following EPA personnel were directly involved in the Removal Assessment conducted for Hexagon Laboratories: Nick Magriples (908-906-6930) and Robert Montgomery (908-906-6934) of the Technical Support Section (TSS), Edison, New Jersey. Some of the technical information presented in this report was excerpted from the Final Draft Inspection Report for Hexagon Laboratories prepared by the Field Investigation Team (FIT) for the EPA on July 29, 1988.

TSS conducted a site reconnaissance on June 12, 1992 based on a verbal request from the NYSDEC. A watchman (former plant worker) that was present for Hexagon Laboratories stated that he provides 24-hour security. Due to conflicting information from the agencies involved with the site, an entry was not conducted. Based on additional information received from the NYSDEC, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Division of Hazardous Materials Management and the New York City Division of Real Property, a site visit/entry was conducted on

July 29, 1992.

On July 29, 1992, TSS, assisted by the Technical Assistance Team (TAT), conducted a site entry for the purpose of air monitoring, hazard categorization sampling and analysis, and confirmation of the inventory. An inventory of all readily accessible containers was assembled over the subsequent three days. A partial inventory from the NYCDEP, and old lists of chemicals used and wastes generated at the site provided a guide for the types of materials at the site. Access was provided by the site watchman that is reportedly paid by a former owner. The NYCDEP was also present at the site on this day.

As of July 31, an inventory completed by TAT and the OSCs revealed approximately 600 various sized containers (10 to 55-gallon drums and various sized fiber containers), as well as at least 2,500 laboratory chemicals. The majority of the drums, over 400, are stored in the lower warehouse (see Figure 2). Of the twenty-seven above and underground tanks, at least one is reported to contain some type of waste material. The tanks were not checked for contents. The site entry revealed that the containers are stored together haphazardly. Portions of the buildings inside present physical hazards due to no lighting and flooding. Although most of the drums are in the warehouse, there are many other containers scattered throughout small and difficult to access rooms. Figures 3a and 3b are diagrams of the Hexagon plant at the time of its operations.

A total of three liquid samples were collected during the assessment at Hexagon for hazard categorization. Two of the samples were collected from flooded drains in the facility and the third was collected from oily water that had migrated from the facility and puddled in the rear yard. The only characteristic of significance, ignitability, was noted in the third sample.

In general, air monitoring conducted in and around the buildings using an explosimeter, photoionization detector (HNU-PID), Organic Vapor Analyzer (OVA) and radiation meter did not detect anything above background levels. There were several locations in the laboratory (organic) storage cabinets and in the vicinity of the oily puddle in the yard where elevated readings above background were noted.

##### 5. NPL status

Hexagon Laboratories is not a National Priorities List (NPL) site. The site received a Hazard Ranking Score of 5.1 in July of 1988. The site is not being evaluated by the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

B. Other Actions to Date

1. Previous actions

There have been no other previous Federal or private actions taken at the site, other than discussed above. Reportedly, when the company left the facility between May and August of 1988, 300-400 drums of materials were either removed from the building or disposed of.

2. Current actions

Due to the potential for a serious release, the OSC requested verbal authorization to initiate an emergency removal action on Wednesday, July 29, 1992 at 1440 hours and subsequently was provided with \$150,000 in contract mitigation funds and a \$250,000 project ceiling. ETI was selected as the Emergency Response Cleanup Contractor (ERCS) contractor. The purpose of this initial action was to stabilize the site to lessen the potential threats that exist.

On July 29, 1992, at approximately 1700 hours, two security guards hired by ETI arrived at the site for around-the-clock duty to supplement the watchman and dog present at the facility. The additional security guards were necessary due to the type of neighborhood and the repeated entries onto the site by vagrants and drug-addicts.

On July 30, 1992, a puddle (four inches in diameter) of mercury discovered in the rear yard was accumulated, bottled and placed in the building. The area where the spill was found was covered with plastic sheeting.

C. State and Local Authorities' Role

1. State and local actions to date

The Director of the NYSDEC, Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation requested EPA assistance to abate the public health and environmental threats posed by Hexagon Laboratories.

On July 3, 1990, the NYCDEP (Division of Hazardous Materials Program) discovered a number of extremely hazardous materials in one of the chemical storage rooms at Hexagon. With the assistance of the New York City Police Department Bomb Squad, 14 containers with a variety of ether compounds, varying in size from four ounces to one gallon, were removed in a total containment vessel for detonation at a bomb squad facility.

## 2. Potential for continued State/local response

Currently, there are no actions being taken by State/local government personnel. Other than technical assistance, no other response actions are expected at this site.

### III. THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR WELFARE OR THE ENVIRONMENT, AND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

#### A. Threats to the Public Health or Welfare

A substantial fire and explosion hazard exists due to the types materials present within the buildings (see Section II.A.3.). A release of these materials in this manner could potentially be catastrophic due to the densely populated area in which the site is situated. Flammable, corrosive, reactive, explosive and toxic chemicals have been stored together for many years exposed to water and poor atmospheric conditions. Fumes of toxic chemicals would drift into the nearby neighborhood, potentially affecting tens of thousands of persons. A release of liquid from the warehouse could migrate to a public access road or a sewer.

The containers and laboratory chemicals stored at the site pose a significant threat to public health. Due to the types and quantities of chemical stored at the site, their extreme incompatibilities, the excessive number of years that these materials have been stored, the haphazard manner in which these materials are stored, and the continued problem with unauthorized entries onto the property, the potential for a release is great if the materials are disturbed. There have been reports of trespassing onto the property by vagrants and drug addicts, which poses a threat to their health, and increases the risk to the workers/residents in the area should the containers in the buildings be disturbed. A release or disturbance of the materials could potentially result in a fire/explosion, with the result being a highly toxic plume.

Some of the containers at the site are damaged and/or visually near the point of release. A few have started leaking. Chemicals that are water and air reactive, corrosive, flammable, oxidizers and poisons are all stored together, and many of these are stored on top of each other. These types of chemicals, when mixed together, would not only result in an increased violent reaction that would occur upon mixing, but would also significantly increase the toxicity of the release. The excessive water in the buildings, as the result of pipe leaks and damaged roofs, poses a threat to those chemicals that are water reactive.

B. Threats to the Environment

Due to the highly developed and commercialized area where Hexagon is located, the threat to the environment is considered to be minimal.

IV. EXPECTED CHANGE IN THE SITUATION SHOULD ACTION BE DELAYED OR NOT TAKEN

Delayed action to remove the hazardous substances present at the Hexagon Laboratory facility will increase the potential for a fire and/or explosion due to arson, incidental trespassing and future failure of containers due to age.

V. ENFORCEMENT

The alleged "owner" of the facility was located on July 30, 1992. Although this person denies ownership, an access agreement was provided by the Office of Regional Counsel (ORC) and subsequently signed on July 31, 1992 to allow the CERCLA Removal Action.

TAT visited the County Seat on July 31 to obtain tax maps and a copy of the deed to the property. The information has been forwarded to ORC.

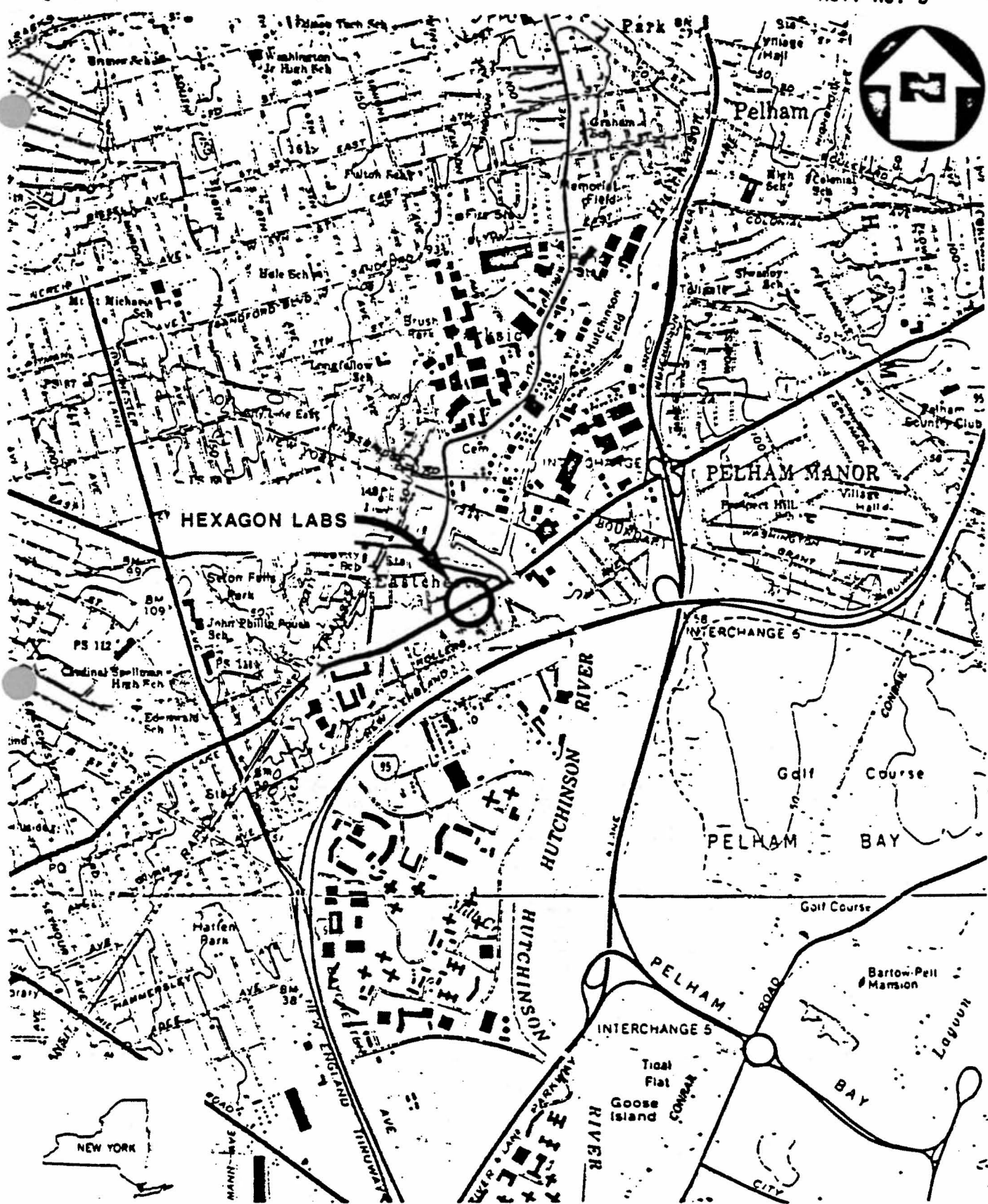
VI. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the available information, a significant threat to human health exists at Hexagon Laboratories. The potential for a catastrophic release of hazardous materials exists based on the types and quantities of materials present in the buildings, the excessive number of years that these materials have been stored, the haphazard manner in which these materials are stored, and the continued problem with unauthorized entries onto the property.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

An CERCLA Emergency Removal Action has been initiated at Hexagon Laboratories to initially stabilize the site. It is recommended that once stabilization activities are completed, funding be allocated for a full scale action to address disposal of these materials.

Attachments



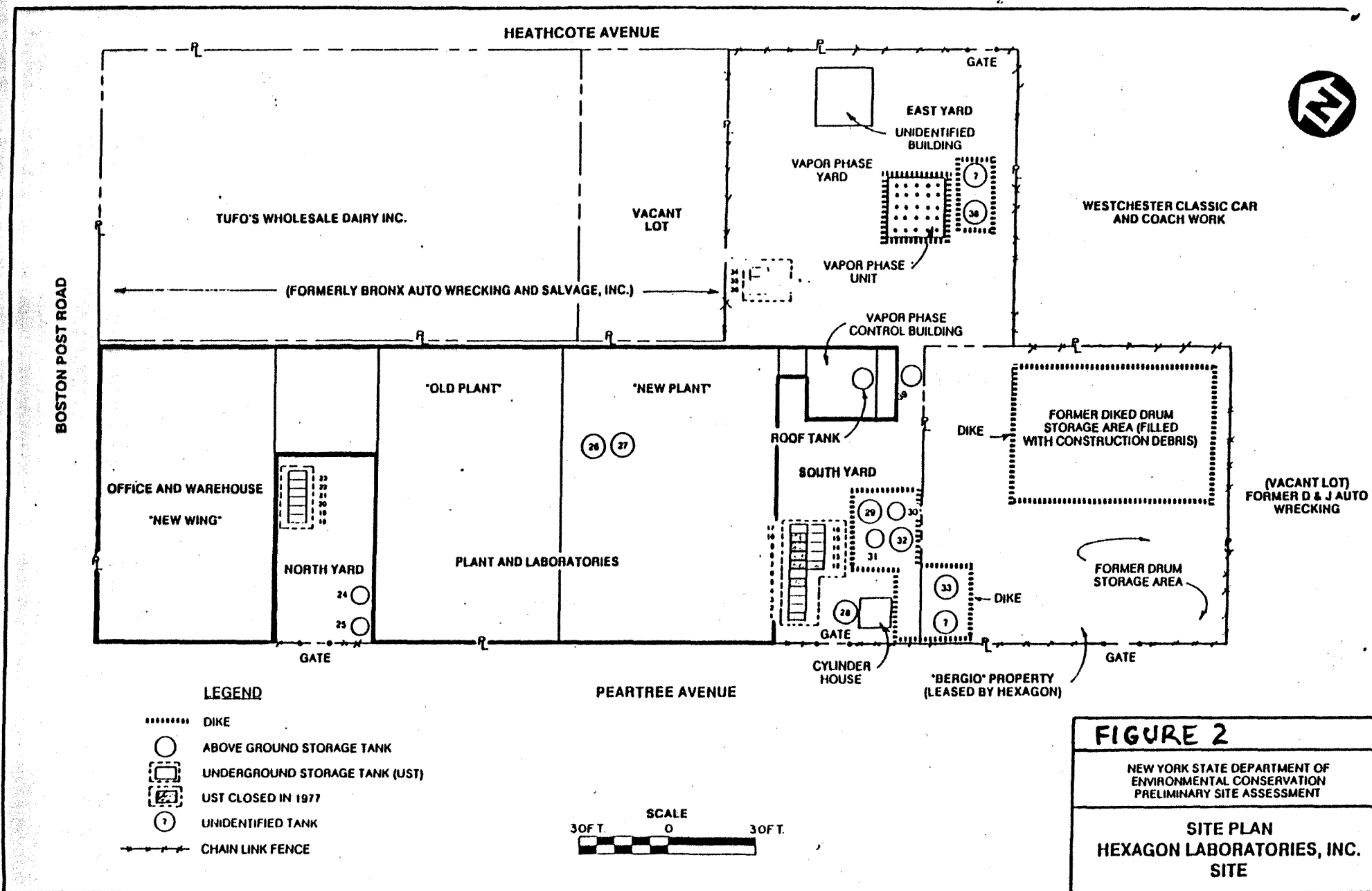
(QUAD) MOUNT VERNON/ FLUSHING, N.Y.

FIGURE 1

**SITE LOCATION MAP**  
**HEXAGON LABS, BRONX, N.Y.**

SCALE: 1" = 2000'









**Chemical Storage Areas- HX-?**

### Above Ground Storage Tanks-(

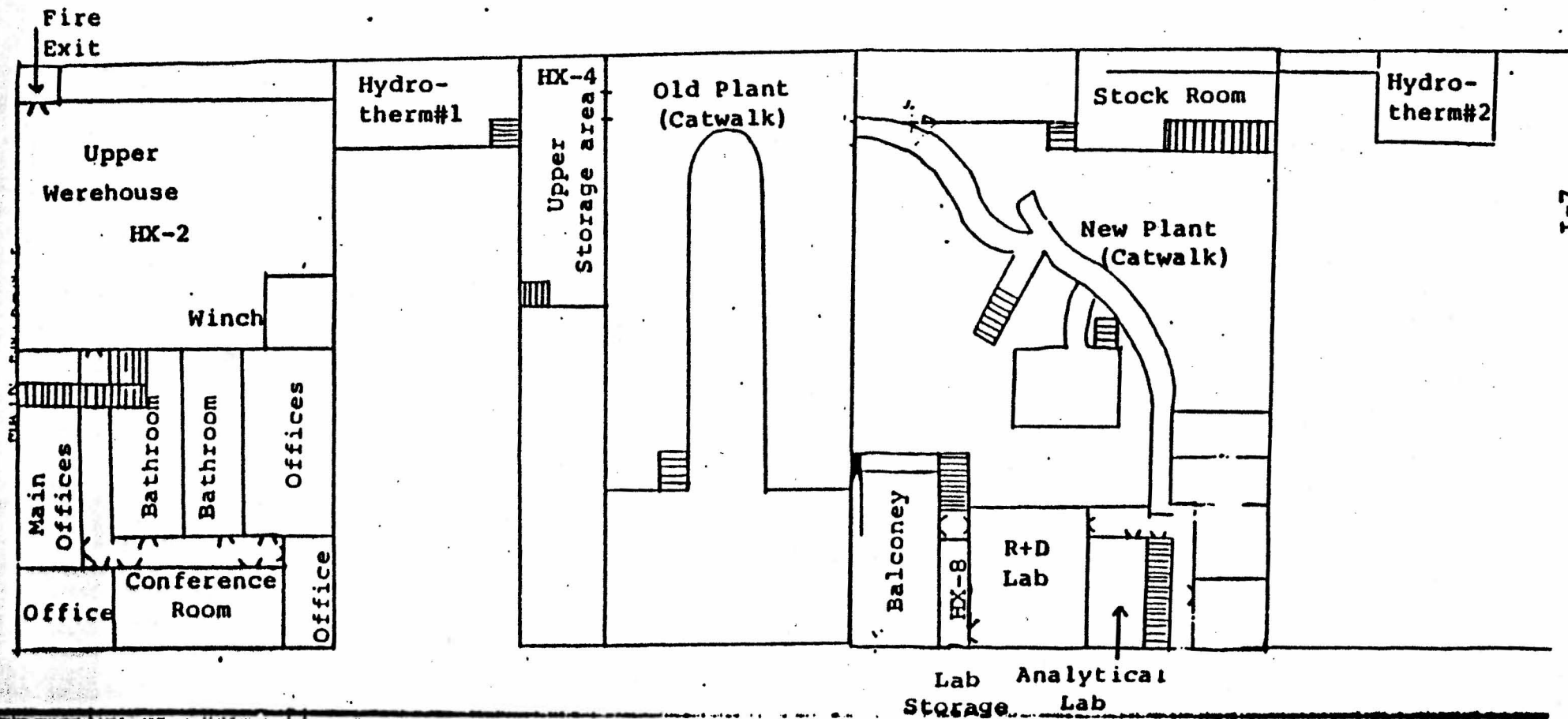
**Underground Storage tanks not in use-●**

340  (3)  
350 O37  
360 Vapor Phase  
 Yard



PEARTREE AVENUE

Second Floor  
Chemical Storage Areas- HX-2



**ATTACHMENT A**

# HEXAGON

LABORATORIES

## INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS AND INTERMEDIATES

- ! \*dl-ASPARTIC ACID
- ! CITRAZINIC ACID
- ! CYCLOPROPANE CARBOXYLIC ACID
- ! CYCLOPROPANE CARBONYL CHLORIDE
- ! N,N-DIETHYLDODECANAMIDE
- DIETHYL KETONE
- 2,5-DIMETHOXYTETRAHYDROFURAN
- ! HIPPURIC ACID
- \*HYDRINDANTIN
- ! 1,3-INDANDIONE
- ISOBUTYLENE CARBONATE
- p-METHOXYPHENYL ACETIC ACID
- \*NINHYDRIN
- PHENYLMALONIC ACID
- PROPIOPHENONE
- SUCCINALDEHYDE SODIUM BISULFITE
- ! \*TRIMETHYLAMINE SULFUR TRIOXIDE

## MEDICINAL CHEMICALS

- BROMPHENIRAMINE MALEATE USP
- CETYL PYRIDINIUM CHLORIDE U.S.P.
- CHLORPHENIRAMINE MALEATE U.S.P.
- ! DIMENHYDRINATE U.S.P.
- ! DIPHENHYDRAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE U.S.P.
- GUAIFENESIN U.S.P.  
(Formerly Glyceryl Guaiacolate N.F.)
- METHOCARBAMOL N.F.
- NEOSTIGMINE BROMIDE U.S.P.
- PHENIRAMINE MALEATE N.F.
- PHENTERMINE
- PYRILAMINE MALEATE U.S.P.

\*Technical Bulletin available

!Developmental Chemical (Limited availability)

**have savvy—will synthesize**

Here are the reasons why you should consider working with Hexagon:

1. Our flexible plant facilities and knowledgeable technical personnel are available to you for the manufacture of a wide variety of organic chemicals.
2. You have the advantage of fast, efficient production without capital investment.

3. We are prepared to carry your new projects from concept to carload.

*All of our services are offered on a confidential basis, of course. We've demonstrated our capabilities to others—may we tell you more, or send you our illustrated Facilities Brochure? Write, or phone.*



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Hexagon Laboratories

INCORPORATED

*Manufacturing Chemists*

MEDICINAL & INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

BROMPHENIRAMINE MALEATE U.S.P. XX

CETYLPIRIDINIUM CHLORIDE U.S.P. XX

CHLORPHENIRAMINE MALEATE U.S.P. XX

GUAIFENESIN U.S.P. XX

NEOSTIGMINE BROMIDE U.S.P. XX

PHENIRAMINE MALEATE N.F. XII

PYRILAMINE MALEATE U.S.P. XX

- ASPARTIC ACID -

2,5-DIMETHOXYTETRAHYDROFURAN -

HYDRINDANTIN-

MONO BENZYL PHENYL MALONATE

NINHYDRIN

PHENYLMALONIC ACID

PHENYL TRIMETHYL AMMONIUM CHLORIDE

SUCCINALDEHYDE SODIUM BISULFITE

ATTACHMENT B

RAW MATERIALS

<u>CHEMICAL NAME</u>	<u>DOT HAZARD CLASS</u>	<u>EMERGENCY GUIDE NO.</u>	<u>STORAGE LOCATION</u>
Acetic Acid, Glacial	Corrosive	29	HX-3, HX-5
Acetone	Flammable Liquid	26	Tanks
Ammonia Aq.	Non Flammable Gas	15	HX-3
Benzoic Acid	ORM E	31	HX-1
Bromine	Corrosive	59	HX-1
S-Butyl Alcohol	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-3, HX-5
Caustic Soda Pels	Corrosive	60	HX-1
Caustic Soda 50%	Corrosive	60	Tanks
Caustic Soda 25%	Corrosive	60	Tanks
chlorine Gas	Non Flammable Gas	20	HX-6
Chloroform	ORM A	55	HX-3
1,1,1 Trichloroethane	ORM A	74	HX-4
Cuprous Chloride	ORM B	60	HX-2
Diethylamine	Flammable Liquid	68	HX-3
Diethyl Ketone	Flammable Liquid	26	Tanks
Ethyl Acetate	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-3
Ethylene Diamine	Corrosive	29	HX-3
Ethylene Dichloride	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-5
Formic Acid	Corrosive	60	HX-3
Glycol	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-2
Heptane	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-3
Hexamethylene Diamine	Corrosive	60	HX-3
Hydrobromic Acid	Corrosive	60	HX-3
Hydrogen	Flammable Gas	22	HX-1
Hydrochloric Acid	Corrosive	60	Tank
Hydrogen Chloride	Non flammable Gas	15	HX-
Hydrogen Peroxide	Oxidizer	47	HX-5
Isobutyric Acid	Corrosive	29	HX-3
Isopropyl Alcohol	Flammable Liquid	26	Tanks
Maleic Acid	ORM A	60	HX-1
Methyl Chloride	Flammable Gas	18	HX-7
Methylene Chloride	ORM A	74	HX-3
Methanol	Flammable Liquid	28	Tanks
Nitric Acid	Oxidizer	73	Tanks
Nitrogen	Non flammable Gas	12	Tanks
Para Formaldehyde	ORM A	32	HX-1
Phenol	Poison B	55	HX-5
Phosphoric Acid	Corrosive	60	HX-3
Propionic Acid	Corrosive	29	Tanks
Sodium Anide	Flammable Solid	32	HX-1
Sodium Cyanide	Poison B	55	HX-2
Sodium Methyrate	Flammable Solid	55	HX-1
Toluene	Flammable Liquid	27	Tanks
Triethylamine	Flammable Liquid	68	HX-5
Xylene	Flammable Liquid	27	Tanks

APPENDIX A  
LAB CHEMICALS

DOT (Department of Transportation) Emergency  
Response Guide for Hazardous Materials used.

<u>CHEMICAL NAME</u>	<u>DOT HAZARD CLASS</u>	<u>EMERGENCY GUIDE NO.</u>	<u>STORAGE LOCATION</u>
Acetone	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Isopropyl Alcohol	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Methanol	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Toluene	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-8
Tetrahydrofuran	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-8
Heptane	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-8
Acetonitrile	Flammable Liquid	28	HX-8
Methyl ethyl ketone	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Denatured Alcohol	Flammable Liquid	28	HX-8
Furan	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Butanol	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Pentane	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-8
Hexane	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-8
Cyclopentanone	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Di-ethyl ketone	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Methyl Propyl Ketone	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Acetaldehyde	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
di-ethyl ether	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
isopropyl	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
Acrolein	Flammable Liquid	30	HX-8
Ethyl acetate	Flammable Liquid	26	HX-8
2-methyl - 2 butanol	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-8
2-methyl - 1 butane	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-8
Metallic Sodium	Flammable Solid	40	HX-8
Sodium Amide	Flammable Solid	32	HX-8
Raney nickel	Flammable Solid	32	HX-8
Magnesium	Flammable Solid	32	HX-8
Red Phosphorus	Flammable Solid	32	HX-8
Lithium Amide	Flammable Solid	40	HX-8
Lithium Aluminum hydrate	Flammable Solid	40	HX-8
Sodium hydride	Flammable Solid	40	HX-8
Acetic Anhydride	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Acetyl Chloride	Flammable Solid	29	HX-8



APPENDIX A  
LAB CHEMICALS

<u>EMICAL NAME</u>	<u>DOT HAZARD CLASS</u>	<u>EMERGENCY GUIDE NO.</u>	<u>STORAGE LOCATION</u>
Iron Trifluoride	No listing		
Chlorine	Corrosive Material	59	HX-8
Chloroethane Sulfonyl			
Chloride	No listing		HX-8
Phosphorous Tribromide	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Phosgene	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Difluoroacetic Acid	No listing		HX-8
Toluene Sulfonyl			
Chloride	No listing		HX-8
Benzoyl Chloride	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Alfuryl Chloride	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Phosphorous Trichloride	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Phosphorous Pentoxide	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Sulfuric Acid	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Hydrochloric Acid	Corrosive Material	60	HX-8
Nitric Acid	Oxidizer & Corrosive	44	HX-8
Acetic Acid	Corrosive Material	29	HX-8
Phosphoric Acid	Corrosive Material	60	HX-8
Hydrobromic Acid	Corrosive Material	60	HX-8
Hydro Iodic	Corrosive Material	60	HX-8
Fuming Sulfuric Acid	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Chlorosulfonic Acid	Corrosive Material	39	HX-8
Hydrogen Peroxide	Oxidizer & Corrosive	47	HX-8
Potassium Permanganate	Oxidizer	35	HX-8
Chromic Anhydride	Oxidizer	42	HX-8
Potassium Chlorate	Oxidizer	35	HX-8
Hydrogen	Flammable Gas	22	HX-8
Carbon Monoxide	Flammable Gas	18	HX-8
Di-Tertiary butyl-			
Peroxide	Organic Peroxide	27	HX-8
Benzoyl Peroxide	Organic Peroxide	49	HX-8
Hydrogen Peroxide	Oxidizer	45	HX-8
1,2 Azobis	No listing		HX-8
2-Methylpropionitrile			
Diethanol	No listing		HX-8
Diethoxyethane	No listing		HX-8
Ammonium Nitrate	Oxidizer	43	HX-8
Hydrazine 37%	Corrosive	59	HX-8
Toluene	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-8
Ethylenes	Flammable Liquid	27	HX-8
Acrylonitrile	No listing		HX-8
Methyl Cellosolve	No listing		HX-8

ATTACHMENT C

WASTES GENERATED ON-SITE  
 HEXAGON LABORATORIES, INC. SITE  
 BRONX COUNTY, NEW YORK

CAS #	CHEMICAL	PHYSICAL STATE	CODE	CHARACTERISTIC	REFERENCE
67-64-1	acetone	Liquid	F003	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
67485-29-4	amdro waste	--	D002	Corrosive	HEXAGON, 1985
64706-54-3	bepiridil (UN 1993)	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
71-55-6	chlorothene (UN 1037)	Liquid	D002	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	dibromo butanol	--	F002	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	dilsobutylene	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	dilsopropyl pheniramine nitril	--	D001	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	diparaxylene	Liquid/Solid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	diparaxylene oxide	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	diphenol oxide	Solid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
75-35-4	ethylene dichloride	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	floor strippings	--	D001	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	lead contaminated sewer sludge	Solid	D008	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
67-56-1	methanol	Liquid	F003	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
not listed	nitrile (Step II)	Liquid	--	Ignitable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	paramethoxy aceto nitrile	--	D000	--	HEXAGON, 1984
not listed	paramethoxy phenyl acetic acid	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	paramethoxyl phenyl acetone nitrile	--	D001	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	spent activated carbon	Solid	D001	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
not listed	still bottom waste	--	F001-F005	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
108-88-3	toluene	Liquid	U220	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	toluene ethylene dichloride	Solid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	trimethyl phenyl ammonium chloride	--	--	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	UN 1760	--	D002	Corrosive	HEXAGON, 1986



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II  
26 FEDERAL PLAZA  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

**DATE:** SEP - 4 1992

**SUBJECT:** Request for Ceiling Increase and Confirmation of Verbal Approval for Removal Action at Hexagon Laboratories, Bronx, New York - ACTION MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** *fn* Charles E. Fitzsimmons, On-Scene Coordinator *K Callahan*  
Response and Prevention Branch

**TO:** Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff  
Regional Administrator

**THRU:** Kathleen C. Callahan, Director *K. Callahan*  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

**SITE ID NO.:** AD

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Action Memorandum is to request a ceiling increase and confirmation of verbal approval granted on July 29, 1992, to conduct a time-critical removal action at the Hexagon Laboratory (Hexagon) site, 3536 Peartree Avenue, Bronx, New York. On July 7, 1992, the Emergency and Remedial Response Division received a referral from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for a removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et. seq., at the Hexagon site.

This Action Memorandum recommends that a removal action be conducted pursuant to CERCLA to secure and stabilize the site by conducting such activities as inventorying, sampling for disposal analyses, and securing all containers on-site. A second removal action will be requested to dispose of the hazardous substances identified on-site. EPA anticipates (based on currently available information) that the response actions at the Site will not exceed \$2 million or the 1 year limitations set out in Section 104(c) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9604(c).

This removal action was initiated based on a verbal authorization given by Kathleen C. Callahan, Director, Emergency and Remedial Response Division on July 29, 1992. The total project ceiling authorized was \$250,000, with a mitigation ceiling of \$150,000.

This site is not on the National Priorities List (NPL) and there are no nationally significant or precedent setting issues associated with this removal action.

## **II. SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND**

Hexagon was a chemical manufacturing firm which produced medicinal chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Fifty-five chemical compounds were reportedly manufactured by Hexagon during operational periods in 1986. Hexagon commenced operations in 1946 and ended in 1988, when the company entered bankruptcy. The manufacturing process at Hexagon included reactions, hydrogenation crystallization, centrifuging, drying and grinding. Raw materials and wastewaters were stored in approximately 27 aboveground and underground tanks and in a concrete lined drum storage area. Wastewaters underwent solvent separation and neutralization on-site prior to discharge into the city sewer system. Acids were reportedly stored in the aboveground tanks and organic compounds were stored in the underground tanks.

### **A. Site Description**

#### **1. Removal Site Evaluation**

A removal site evaluation was performed by the Removal Action Branch on July 29-31, 1992. This inspection revealed approximately 600 various sized containers (10 to 55-gallon drums and various sized fiber containers), as well as at least 2500 small quantity laboratory chemicals. Approximately 400 drums are stored in the lower warehouse. There are also twenty-seven above and below-ground tanks, with their contents unknown. All containers are staged haphazardly and are stacked three high, with a number of them teetering. Portions of the plant building present physical hazards due to the crumbling of the building fabric, poor lighting, flooding, and dangling pipes. Although most of the drums are in the warehouse, there are many other containers scattered throughout the plant building in small and difficult to access rooms.

Three liquid samples were collected during the site inspection, for hazard categorization. Two of the samples were collected from flooded drains in the facility, and the third was collected from oily water that had migrated from the facility and puddled in the rear yard. The only hazard characteristic of significance noted was ignitability in the third sample. In general, air

monitoring conducted in and around the buildings, using an explosimeter, photoionization detector (HNU-PID), organic vapor analyzer (OVA) and radiation meter, did not detect any levels above background. There were several locations in the laboratory (organic) storage cabinets and in the vicinity of the oily puddle in the yard, where levels above background were noted.

## 2. Physical Location

Hexagon is located at 3536 Peartree Ave. in the Eastchester section of Bronx County, New York (see figure 1). The site occupies approximately one-half of a city block, approximately 57,000 sq.ft. in area. It is situated in a densely populated urban area with approximately 381,000 people living within a three mile radius. The site is bordered by Tufo's Wholesale Dairy Inc, to the east (adjoining building and parking lot), an apparent vacant building and lot to the south/southeast, and an active auto repair shop and auto salvage shop to the west across Peartree Ave. There are no potable water supply wells registered for the Eastchester/Baychester area of the Bronx.

The topography of Bronx County slopes gently southward to the East River. The topography in the vicinity of the site slopes toward the Hutchinson River, which is located approximately 800 ft. east. Most of the ground surfaces around the site are paved with asphalt or cement. Hexagon and the surrounding community obtain potable water from the Croton Reservoir, a main component of the New York City Water Supply System, located approximately 18 miles north.

## 3. Site Characteristics

The site includes four major structures: a.) a main building occupies 17,000 sq. ft., b.) a vapor phase control building located in the east yard, south of the main bldg., c.) a cylinder house located to the west of the vapor phase control building,

and d.) an unidentified structure in the vapor phase yard. The main building was constructed in three stages as designated below:

- o Old Plant constructed in 1948
- o New Plant constructed in 1956
- o New Wing constructed in 1970

The plant area includes two story batch reactor vessels, distillers, and centrifuges on the first floor and two laboratories and a chemical storage area on the second floor.

Over 400 drums are staged in the lower storage area of the warehouse at the north end of the main building. The drums are staged haphazardly, some stacked three high and teetering. A total of approximately 27 above and below-ground storage tanks are located throughout the plants and their associated open yards. Another 100 to 200 drums are scattered throughout the plants. Approximately, 2500 laboratory sized chemicals are stored in the designated laboratory area. A large quantity, almost 50 percent, are unlabelled and therefore unknown.

4. Release or Threatened Release Into the Environment of a Hazardous Substance, or Pollutant or Contaminant

Some of the raw materials used by Hexagon during their operations include diethyl ketone, furan, methylene chloride, phenol, propanionic acid, triethylamine, sodium hydroxide, and hexamethylene diamine. Some of the wastes generated include diisobutylene, ethylene dichloride, paramethoxy phenyl acetic acid, and still bottom waste. These materials are all designated as hazardous substances under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

A limited inventory conducted by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), in July of 1990, revealed the following materials in one of the stock rooms:

POISONS:

Bromobenzyl Cyanide, Brucine, Benzoyl Cyanide, Potassium Cyanide, Methyl Diisocyanate, Ethyl Cyanoacetate, Benzyl Aniline, Acrylonitrile, Diethyl Sulfate

WATER REACTIVES:

Lithium Amide, Sodium Aluminum Diethyl Dihydride, Sodium Methoxide, Sodium Borohydride, Sodium Methylate, Lithium Metal, Sodium Metal

REACTIVES:

Vinylidene Chloride

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS:

Anhydrous Ammonia, Boron Trichloride, Boron Trifluoride, 1,3,-Butadiene, Carbon Monoxide, Chlorine, Dimethyl Amine, Ethylene Oxide, Hydrogen Bromide, Hydrogen Chloride, Hydrogen Sulfide, Isobutylene, Methyl Bromide, Methyl Chloride, Monomethyl Amine, Sulfur Dioxide, Trimethylamine, Monoethyl Amine.

An inventory assembled by members of the Removal Action Branch from July 29-31, 1992, confirmed most of the above and discovered numerous others. Based on available information on the facility's operations, the chemicals in the buildings are raw materials, chemical intermediates, mother liquors and wastes from the former operation. The chemical hazards include: potentially explosive, shock sensitive, water and air reactives, poisonous gasses, carcinogens, flammables, oxidizers, and corrosives.

The majority of the materials listed above are CERCLA designated Hazardous Substances, as listed in 40CFR Table 302.4, either specifically or as unlisted hazardous waste characteristics under RCRA Section 3001.

<u>Compound</u>	<u>Statutory Source of Designation as a Hazardous Substance</u>
Potassium Cyanide	CWA 311(b)(4)
Sodium Hydroxide	RCRA 3001
Methylene Chloride	CERCLA 304
Hydrochloric Acid	RCRA 3001
Sulfuric Acid	CWA 311(b)(4)

Historical information reveals that there have been two documented releases at Hexagon. On June 15, 1986, there was an indoor release of "toxic gas" from a reactor due to operational error. Then on June 30, 1986, an n-n dimethylamine spill occurred at the facility, which was caused by a ruptured high

pressure release disk located on the roof. An unknown quantity of n-n dimethylamine and isopropyl alcohol were sprayed over Hexagon's yard and adjacent facilities.

The mechanism for future releases to the environment includes deterioration of containers, improper disturbance and vandalism of the tanks, reactor vessels, ancillary piping, containers, laboratory chemicals, and cylinders. A substantial fire and



explosion hazard exists due to the materials present within the buildings. Cyanide compounds could react with acids and other reactives to produce a plume of high toxicity which would adversely impact the public health, welfare and the environment. Liquids, if released, could migrate from the warehouse storage onto Peartree Avenue and could access the Hutchinson River via storm drains.

5. NPL STATUS

This site is currently not listed on the NPL. The site received a Hazard Ranking Score of 5.1 in July of 1988. At the time of the site inspection, the facility was operating.

B. Other Actions To Date

1. Previous Actions

There have been no other previous Federal or private actions taken at the site. Reportedly when the company left the facility, between May and August of 1988, 300-400 drums of materials were either removed from the building or disposed of.

2. Current Actions

Due to the potential for an imminent and substantial release, the On-Scene Coordinator requested verbal authorization on July 29, 1992, to initiate site security and stabilization activities. The initial stabilization activities included implementing site security measures, segregation of incompatibles, and overpacking of suspect containers. Future stabilization activities under this removal action will include sampling and analysis of all containers.

C. State and Local Authorities' Roles

1. State and Local Actions to Date

The Director of the NYSDEC, Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation, requested EPA assistance to abate the public health and environmental threats posed by Hexagon Labs.

On July 3, 1990, the NYCDEP Division of Hazardous Materials Program discovered a number of extremely hazardous materials in one of the chemical storage rooms at Hexagon. With the assistance of the New York City Police Bomb Squad, 14 containers of ether compounds were removed for off-site treatment at the City's detonation range.

2. Continued State/Local Response

Neither NYSDEC or NYCDEP has the resources currently available to perform the necessary removal action at this site. Thus, these entities will act in a support role throughout the duration of this removal action.

III. THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR WELFARE OR THE ENVIRONMENT, AND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

A. Threats to the Public Health or Welfare

A substantial fire and explosion hazard exists due to the types of materials present within the buildings. A release of these materials in this manner could adversely impact the densely populated area surrounding the site. Flammable, corrosive, reactive, explosive, and toxic materials have been stored together for many years exposed to water and other elements. The site has long been a nuisance from an air quality standpoint and now is also a threat from a fire and explosion scenario.

The containers and laboratory chemicals pose a significant threat to public health. Due to the types and quantities of chemicals, their extreme incompatibilities, the excessive number of years at which they have remained, the haphazard manner in which they were

abandoned, and the continued problem with unauthorized entries, the potential for a release is great if the materials are disturbed. There have been reports of trespassing onto the property by vagrants and drug addicts, which poses a threat to their health, and increases the risk to the workers/residents in the neighborhood.

Some of the containers are damaged and/or near the point of release. A few have started leaking. Chemicals that are air/water reactive, corrosive, flammable, oxidizers and poisons are all stored together, many of which are stored on top of each other. These classes, when commingled, would not only result in an increased violent reaction, but would subsequently increase the toxicity of the release. The excessive standing water in the buildings, as a result of pipe leaks and a damaged roof, poses another threat to the materials.

#### B. Threats to the Environment

The major threat would be from a release of a liquid substance which accessed one of the many catch basins in the street and subsequently reaches the Hutchinson River, a navigable surface water. For the most part however, due to the highly developed and commercialized area, the overall threat to the environment is expected to be minimal.

#### IV. ENDANGERMENT DETERMINATION

Actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances from this site, if not addressed by implementing the response action selected in this Action Memorandum, may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health, or welfare, or the environment.

V. PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

A. Proposed Actions

1. Proposed Action Description

Stabilization of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants and hazardous wastes is the proposed course of action. Stabilization activities will include segregation of incompatibles, as well as overpacking of select containers and sampling. All hazardous substances will be staged on the premises in a secure area. Containers will be segregated by existing identification labels and container condition to ensure proper segregation of incompatible materials. All containers will be sampled for compatibility and disposal purposes. A mobile compatibility lab will perform waste stream determination on site. Results will be known right away, thereby allowing for

cost savings and hazard determination. Manufacturers will be solicited to reclaim drums and containers which appear to have useable product. This proposed action does not provide removal of any of the material for off-site disposal.

2. Contribution to Remedial Performance

The proposed action will, to the extent practicable, contribute to the efficient performance of any long term remedial action. Remedial plans at this time are unknown. This removal action is consistent with any long term remedy action to be taken at this site, by stabilizing the source of the potential off-site contamination.

3. Description of Alternative Technologies

The only other alternative to this proposal is no action. Site stabilization activities which include staging and overpacking of containers, sampling and bulking are standard operating procedures. Due to the types of materials and the quantities found at this site, it is important that these activities commence in a quick and safe manner.

4. Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARS)

ARARS within the scope of this project include RCRA, CERCLA, OSHA, and DOT mandates, will be met to the extent practicable.

5. Project Schedule

Site stabilization activities commenced on July 29, 1992. Thus far, around the clock site security has been mobilized, chain link fence with barb wire has been erected in those areas where needed, windows and doors have been boarded to prevent access, a command post with utilities has been established and the necessary written plans (i.e., Health and Safety, Work and Sampling), have been finalized. It is estimated that it will take eight to ten weeks to complete the remainder of site stabilization activities. This includes staging, sampling and performing compatibility analyses on all containers. It is estimated that there are approximately 600 containers. Compatibility analysis will be completed on site.

B. Estimated Costs

A summary of the estimated costs for the proposed removal action is presented below.

1. Extramural Costs:

	<u>Current Ceiling</u>	<u>Estimated Additional Costs for this Project</u>	<u>Total Proposed Ceiling</u>
Regional Allowance Costs.... (Total cleanup contractor costs include labor, equipment, materials, laboratory disposal analysis, transportation and disposal) includes 20% contingency	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$550,000

**Other Extramural Costs:**

Other extramural costs not  
funded from the regional  
allowance:

Total TAT, including multiplier costs.....	\$ 50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Subtotal, Extramural Costs..	\$200,000	\$500,000	
Extramural cost contingency (20% of subtotal).....		\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL EXTRAMURAL COSTS.....</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>

**2. Intramural Costs:**

Intramural direct costs.....		\$ 25,000	
Intramural indirect costs...		\$ 50,000	
<b>TOTAL INTRAMURAL COSTS.....</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

**3. TOTAL REMOVAL PROJECT**

CEILING.....	\$250,000		\$925,000
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**VI. EXPECTED CHANGE IN THE SITUATION SHOULD ACTION BE DELAYED OR NOT TAKEN**

Delayed action will increase public health risks. Due to the types of hazardous substances, the volume of such and the proximity to the general public, it can be assumed that should no action occur, the situation will generally deteriorate and a major incident ensue.

**VII. OUTSTANDING POLICY ISSUES**

There are no apparent outstanding policy issues associated with this site.

#### **VIII. ENFORCEMENT**

A Potential Responsible Party (PRP) search is ongoing. There are a number of file cabinets with site historical information inside the main building. These files will be retrieved and reviewed pursuant to the July 31, 1992, access agreement in which Hexagon authorizes EPA to inspect and duplicate documents and records at the Site. It is anticipated that a number of PRPs will be identified and "Request for Information Letters" will be issued pursuant to Section 104(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9604(e).

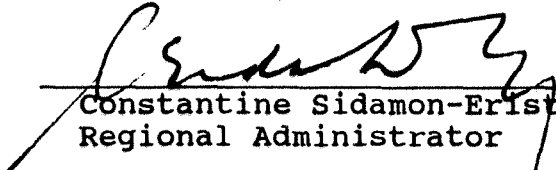
#### **IX. RECOMMENDATION**

This decision document represents the selected remedy for the Hexagon Laboratories site in Bronx, New York. It has been developed in accordance with CERCLA as amended and consistent with the National Contingency Plan (NCP). This decision is based on the Administrative Record and visual inspection of the site.

Conditions at the site meet the NCP Section 300.415(b)(2) criteria for a removal action and I recommend your approval of this proposed action. The total project ceiling will be increased by \$675,000 for a total of \$925,000, including the additional funds that were verbally authorized on July 29, 1992. The estimated costs of \$400,000 requested for mitigation contracting will come from the Regional Advice of Allowance for FY-92.

Please indicate your approval and authorization of funding for the Hexagon Laboratories site, pursuant to your authority delegated by Assistant Administrator J. Winston Porter, May 25, 1988, Delegation Number R-14-1-A.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff  
Regional Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/4/92

Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff  
Regional Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

cc: (after approval is obtained)

C. Sidamon-Eristoff, 2RA  
W. Muszynski, 2DRA  
K. Callahan, 2ERR  
R. Salkie, 2ERR-ADREPP  
B. Sprague, 2ERR-RPB  
W. McCabe, 2ERRD-NY/CP  
G. Zachos, 2ERR-RAB  
J. Daloia, 2ERR-RPB  
J. Marshall, 2EPD  
E. Schaaf, 2ORC-NYCSUP  
R. Gherardi, 2OPM-FIN  
S. Luftig, OS-210  
S. Becker, 2ERR-PS  
M. O'Toole, NYSDEC  
C. Moyik, 2ERR-PS  
T. Grier, OS-210  
J. Rosianski, 2OEP  
C. Kelley, TATL  
P. McKechnie, 2IG





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** JAN 28 1993

**SUBJECT:** Request for a Change in the Scope of the Response,  
an Increase in the Project Ceiling and a Removal Action  
Restart at the Hexagon Laboratories Inc. Superfund Site  
Bronx, New York

**FROM:** Charles E. Fitzsimmons, On-Scene Coordinator  
Technical Support Section

**TO:** William J. Muszynski, P.E.  
Acting Regional Administrator

**THRU:** George Pavlou, Acting Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

**SITE ID NO.:** AD

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Action Memorandum is to request a change in the scope of response, an increase in the project ceiling and the restart of removal activities at the Hexagon Laboratories, Inc. Superfund Site (Site) in Bronx, New York 10475. The requested amendments would authorize the transportation, disposal and/or treatment of the hazardous substances staged at the Site and increase total Removal Project Ceiling from \$925,000 to \$1,725,000 to implement the removal activities.

On July 7, 1992, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation, requested the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a removal action at the Site pursuant to the

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq. On July 29, 1992, the Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division, EPA Region II, authorized a removal action at the Site. The decision was subsequently documented in an Action Memorandum dated September 4, 1992, which also increased the project ceiling from \$250,000 to \$925,000 for the purpose of stabilizing, sampling and securing all containers and tanks at the Site. EPA completed the removal activities authorized by the September 4, 1992 Action Memorandum on December 11, 1992.

The Site is not on the National Priorities List (NPL) and there are no nationally significant or precedent setting issues associated with this removal action.

## II. SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

Hexagon Laboratories (Hexagon) produced medicinal chemicals and pharmaceuticals from 1946 until it declared bankruptcy in 1988. The manufacturing process at Hexagon included reactions, hydrogenation, crystallization, centrifuging, drying and grinding. Raw materials and wastewaters were stored in approximately 77 aboveground and underground tanks and in a concrete lined drum storage area. Wastewaters were treated on-site by solvent separation and neutralization, prior to discharge into the New York City sewer system.

At present the tanks at the Site contain approximately 15,000 gallons of organic solvents and 5,000 gallons of corrosives. There are also over 600 fifty-five gallon drums and 100 thirty-five gallon laboratory packs containing hazardous wastes and reclaimable/reusable catalysts and precious metals. The majority of these catalysts and metals have been identified to be hazardous substances as that term is defined in Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9601(14).

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System ID number for this time critical removal action is NYD046178075.

### A. Site Description

#### 1. Removal site evaluation

EPA secured and stabilized the Site with the funds authorized by the September 4 1992 Action Memorandum. Specifically, EPA erected a chain link fence around the perimeter of the Site and provided 24 hour security. EPA sampled all drums, pails, vessels and tanks at the Site and retrieved approximately 700 samples. Each sample was analyzed for hazardous characteristics in preparation for the staging and ultimate disposal of the hazardous substances.

The facility laboratory contained many known and unknown laboratory chemicals. These materials have been packaged into 35 gallon lab packs and remain on-site. There were also 89 "lecture" size (six to twelve inches long) gas cylinders, which were reclaimed by their manufacturer, Matheson Gas Inc. Two drums of salicylic acid were also reclaimed by a local pharmaceutical manufacturer for reprocessing. All drums, pails and lab containers have been packaged and are staged on-site awaiting transportation and disposal.

## **2. Physical location**

Hexagon is located at 3536 Peartree Avenue in the Eastchester section of Bronx County, New York (see Figures I and II). The Site occupies approximately one-half of a city block, which is approximately 57,000 square feet. It is situated in a densely populated urban area with approximately 381,000 people living within a three mile radius. The Site is bordered by Tufo's Wholesale Dairy to the east (adjoining building and parking lot), a vacant building and lot to the south/southeast and an active auto repair shop and auto salvage shop to the west across Peartree Avenue.

The topography of Bronx County slopes gently southward to the East River. The topography in the vicinity of the Site slopes toward the Hutchinson River, which is located approximately 800 feet east. Most of the ground surfaces around the Site are paved with asphalt or cement. The Site and the surrounding community obtain potable water from the Croton Reservoir, which is a main component of the New York City water supply system located approximately 18 miles north. There are no potable water supply wells registered in the Eastchester/Baychester area of the Bronx.

## **3. Site characteristics**

The Site includes four major structures: (see Figures III and IV) a.) a main plant building occupying 17,000 square feet; b.) a vapor phase control building located in the east yard, south of the main building; c.) a cylinder house located to the west of the vapor phase control building; and d.) an unidentified structure in the vapor phase yard. The main plant building was constructed in three stages:

- o Old Plant constructed in 1948
- o New Plant constructed in 1956
- o New Wing constructed in 1970

The main plant area includes two story batch reactor vessels, distillers and centrifuges on the first floor and two laboratories and a chemical storage area on the second floor.

4. Release or threatened release into the environment of a hazardous substance, or pollutant, or contaminant

The condition of the Site, prior to beginning the removal action, presented a significant threat of a release of hazardous substances into the environment. Hazardous substances, which are highly toxic, ignitable, reactive and corrosive, were stored and abandoned in unsecured and deteriorating containers including drums, tanks, reactor vessels and piping.

At the time that EPA began the removal activities at the Site, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) discovered possible evidence of a release from the Site when its employees, who were in the process of shutting off water service to the Site, were overcome with fumes from a black liquid at the bottom of a trench dug adjacent to the Site and had to be evacuated. Five years earlier in June 1987, NYSDEC discovered a fifteen foot layer of liquid hydrocarbons floating on top of the groundwater at the Site when it probed an abandoned well at the facility with a sonic interface detector.

There is a continuing threat of a release at the Site, including a fire or explosion, due to the continued presence of toxic, ignitable, reactive and corrosive hazardous substances at the Site. Various above ground and underground tanks at the Site, for example, contain approximately 3,000 gallons of flammable liquids, 2,000 gallons of flammable peroxide liquids, 500 gallons of liquid organic reactive acids, 500 gallons of inorganic oxidizing acids and 1,000 gallons of inorganic oxidizing basic liquids. There are also over 15,000 gallons of various substances, both hazardous and non-hazardous, in thirteen sumps at the Site. Furthermore, there are approximately 600 drums, which contain solvents, acids, bases, reactives and cyanides.

The continuing threat of a release at the Site is further attributable to the fact that the hazardous substances at the Site are temporarily stored in containers not intended for permanent storage or disposal and whose long-term stability is uncertain. At this time it appears that EPA is the only governmental agency capable of taking timely and appropriate action to respond to the threat posed by presence of hazardous substances at the Site in containers that will deteriorate over time.

In addition to the hazardous substances listed in the September 4, 1992 Action Memorandum, other hazardous substances identified at the Site include:

POISONS:

Bromobenzyl Cyanide, Brucine, Benzoyl Cyanide, Potassium Cyanide, Methyl Diisocyanate, Ethyl Cyanoacetate, Benzyl Aniline, Acrylonitrile, Diethyl Sulfate, Chloropromazine Hydrochloride, Acrylamide, Aniline, Ferric Chloride, Sodium Nitrite

WATER REACTIVES:

Lithium Amide, Sodium Aluminum Diethyl Dihydride, Sodium Methoxide, Sodium Borohydride, Sodium Methylate, Lithium Metal, Sodium Metal

REACTIVES:

Vinylidene Chloride

ORGANIC LIQUIDS:

Toluene, Acetone, Xylene, Triethylamine, Diethylamine, Diethyl Ketone, Dioxane, Hexamethylene-Diamine

The potential health affects from the some of the compounds are identified in Addendum B.

5. National Prioities List (NPL) Status

This Site is currently not listed on the NPL. The Site received a preliminary Hazard Ranking Score of 5.1 in July of 1988.

6. Maps, pictures and other graphic representations

Refer to the attached Addendum A.

B. Other Actions To Date

1. Previous actions

EPA began the removal action at the Site on July 29, 1992. The initial phase of removal activities concentrated on identifying the types and quantities of hazardous substances present at the Site. EPA categorized, sampled and inventoried all containers found at the Site, which were then consolidated, if appropriate, overpacked and staged for disposal. Incompatible substances were identified and staged separately. Approximately 16 laboratory containers, which typically hold one gallon or less, were found to be shock sensitive and were placed in an explosive day box on the premises.

## **2. Current actions**

EPA is currently providing 24-hour a day security at the Site. EPA is also investigating recycling options for useable substances at the Site. To date, the following substances have been reclaimed for reuse: 89 lecture size gas cylinders, two fifty-five gallon drums of salicylic acid, and 75 laboratory containers, which typically hold one gallon or less, of catalysts and precious metals.

### **C. State and Local Authorities' Roles**

#### **1. State and local actions to date**

NYCDEP, with the help of the New York City Fire Department, shut off the water to the buildings to prevent further leaking from the fire suppression system at the start of the removal action.

On July 3, 1990, NYCDEP with the help of the New York City Police Bomb Squad, removed 14 containers of explosive ether compounds from a chemical storage room at the Site to the City's detonation range.

#### **2. Continued state/local response**

NYSDEC and NYCDEP will continue to provide support during the conduct of the removal action, but neither have the resources at this time to conduct the removal action themselves.

### **III. THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH, OR WELFARE, OR THE ENVIRONMENT, STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES**

For the reasons detailed in this Action Memorandum, the conditions at the Site and the threats that they present meet the National Contingency Plan (NCP) criteria set out at 40 CFR §300.415 for conducting a removal action. Factors that support conducting a removal action at the Site include:

1. Actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations, animals, or the food chains from hazardous substances, or pollutants, or contaminants [40 CFR §300.415(b)(2)(i)];

The Site is located within an active commercial/residential zone and is adjacent to a dairy foods distributor.

2. Hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage containers, that may pose a threat of release [40 CFR §300.415(b)(2)(iii)];

The longterm stability of the overpacked drums is uncertain.

3. Threat of fire or explosion [40 CFR §300.415(b)(2)(vi)];

Many of the drums at the Site awaiting disposal contain flammable and combustible liquids. The plume from a fire or explosion at the Site would impact nearby businesses and residences.

4. The availability of other appropriate federal or state response mechanisms to respond to the release [40 CFR §300.415(b)(2)(vii)].

At this time it appears that EPA is the only governmental agency capable of taking timely and appropriate action to respond to the threat posed by the presence of hazardous substances at the Site.

A. Threats to the public health or welfare

As discussed above, there is a risk of a release of hazardous substances at the Site because these substances are being stored temporarily in containers that are not intended for the long-term storage or disposal of such substances. Furthermore, there is a risk of fire and explosion at the Site due to the presence of large volumes of flammable liquids and other combustible liquids and solids. A fire or explosion could result in a large airborne toxic plume that could adversely impact the local population. There are approximately 381,000 people living within a three mile radius of the Site. Furthermore, the Site is located in an active commercial area and is adjacent to a dairy foods distributor.

B. Threats to the environment

In addition to the impacts of a release of hazardous substances at the Site, such as a toxic fire and/or explosion on the environment, a release of liquids from the Site that reached nearby storm sewers would drain into the Hutchinson River. The Hutchinson River is classified by NYSDEC as a Class SB water body. Class SB waters are saline, and suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation and any other use except for the taking of shellfish for market purposes.

It appears that there is groundwater contamination in the vicinity of the Site, which may be due to leaking underground storage tanks at the Site. In addition, initial field testing of the contents of the thirteen sumps at the Site indicates that one or more of the sumps may contain hazardous waste.

#### IV. ENDANGERMENT DETERMINATION

Actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances from this Site, if not addressed by implementing the response action selected in this Action Memorandum, may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health, or welfare, or the environment.

#### V. PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

##### A. Proposed Actions

##### 1. Proposed action description

This action memorandum authorizes funds for the transportation and disposal and/or treatment of the hazardous substances from the Site. Hazardous materials to be disposed of have been identified as such using accepted quality assurance/quality control procedures and will be disposed of in accordance with the CERCLA Off-Site Disposal Policy, at treatment, storage and disposal facilities permitted under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. §§6921 et seq..

The Site will not require post-removal site control and any long-term remediation at the Site will be conducted by the State of New York.

##### 2. Contribution to remedial performance

The removal action at the Site will be consistent with any long-term remedial action at the Site in that it provides for the removal and disposal of the hazardous substances at the Site.

##### 3. Description of alternative technologies

Resource recovery and recycling options will be explored and utilized to the greatest extent possible.

##### 4. EE/CA

Not applicable.

##### 5. Applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARS)

ARARS that are within the scope of this project, including Resource Conservation Recovery Act and Department of Transportation mandates, will be met to the extent practicable.



## 6. Project schedule

The removal of the hazardous substances from the Site for disposal and/or treatment should take approximately eight to ten weeks.

### B. Estimated Costs

A summary of the estimated costs for the proposed removal action is presented below.

#### 1. Extramural Costs:

	<u>Current Ceiling</u>	<u>Estimated Additional Costs for this Project</u>	<u>Total Proposed Ceiling</u>
Regional Allowance Costs (Total cleanup contractor costs include labor, equipment, materials, laboratory disposal analysis, transportation and disposal) includes 20% contingency	....\$650,000	\$600,000	\$1,250,000

#### Other Extramural Costs:

Other extramural costs not funded from the regional allowance:

Total TAT, including multiplier costs.....	\$150,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 175,000
Subtotal, Extramural Costs..	\$800,000	\$625,000	\$1,425,000
Extramural cost contingency (20% of subtotal).....		\$125,000	\$ 125,000
TOTAL EXTRAMURAL COSTS.....	\$800,000	\$750,000	\$1,550,000

#### 2. Intramural Costs:

Intramural direct costs.....	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 75,000
Intramural indirect costs...	\$ 75,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 100,000
TOTAL INTRAMURAL COSTS.....	\$125,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 175,000

3. TOTAL REMOVAL PROJECT CEILING.....	\$925,000	\$800,000	\$1,725,000
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#### **VI. EXPECTED CHANGE IN THE SITUATION SHOULD ACTION BE DELAYED OR NOT TAKEN**

Delayed action will increase public health risks. Due to the types of hazardous substances, the volume of such, the proximity to the general public and the lack of any other response mechanism, it can be assumed that should no action occur, the situation will generally deteriorate and the potential for a release will increase.

#### **VII. OUTSTANDING POLICY ISSUES**

There are no apparent outstanding policy issues associated with this Site.

#### **VIII. ENFORCEMENT**

EPA conducted a title search of the property on which the Site is located and is reviewing Site records to identify any potentially responsible parties.

Site information, available at the time of this writing, indicates that it is unlikely that there are any viable PRPs who would be prepared to undertake the timely removal activities necessary to protect the public and the environment from the threats that exist on this Site.

#### **IX. RECOMMENDATION**

This decision document represents the selected removal action for the Hexagon Laboratories Site in Bronx, New York. It has been developed in accordance with CERCLA as amended, and not inconsistent with the NCP. This decision is based on the Administrative Record for the Site.

Conditions at the Site meet the criteria set out in Section 300.415(b)(2) of the NCP, 40 CFR §300.415(b)(2), for a removal action and I recommend your approval of this proposed action.

The total project ceiling will be increased to \$1,725,000, of which \$1,250,000 comes from the Regional removal allowance. The additional funds requested for mitigation contracting are available from the Regional Advice of Allowance.

Please indicate your approval and authorization of funding for the Hexagon Laboratories Site removal action, pursuant to your authority delegated by Assistant Administrator J. Winston Porter, May 25, 1988, Delegation Number R-14-1-A.

Approved: William J. Muszynski Date: 1/29/83  
William J. Muszynski, P.E.  
Acting Regional Administrator

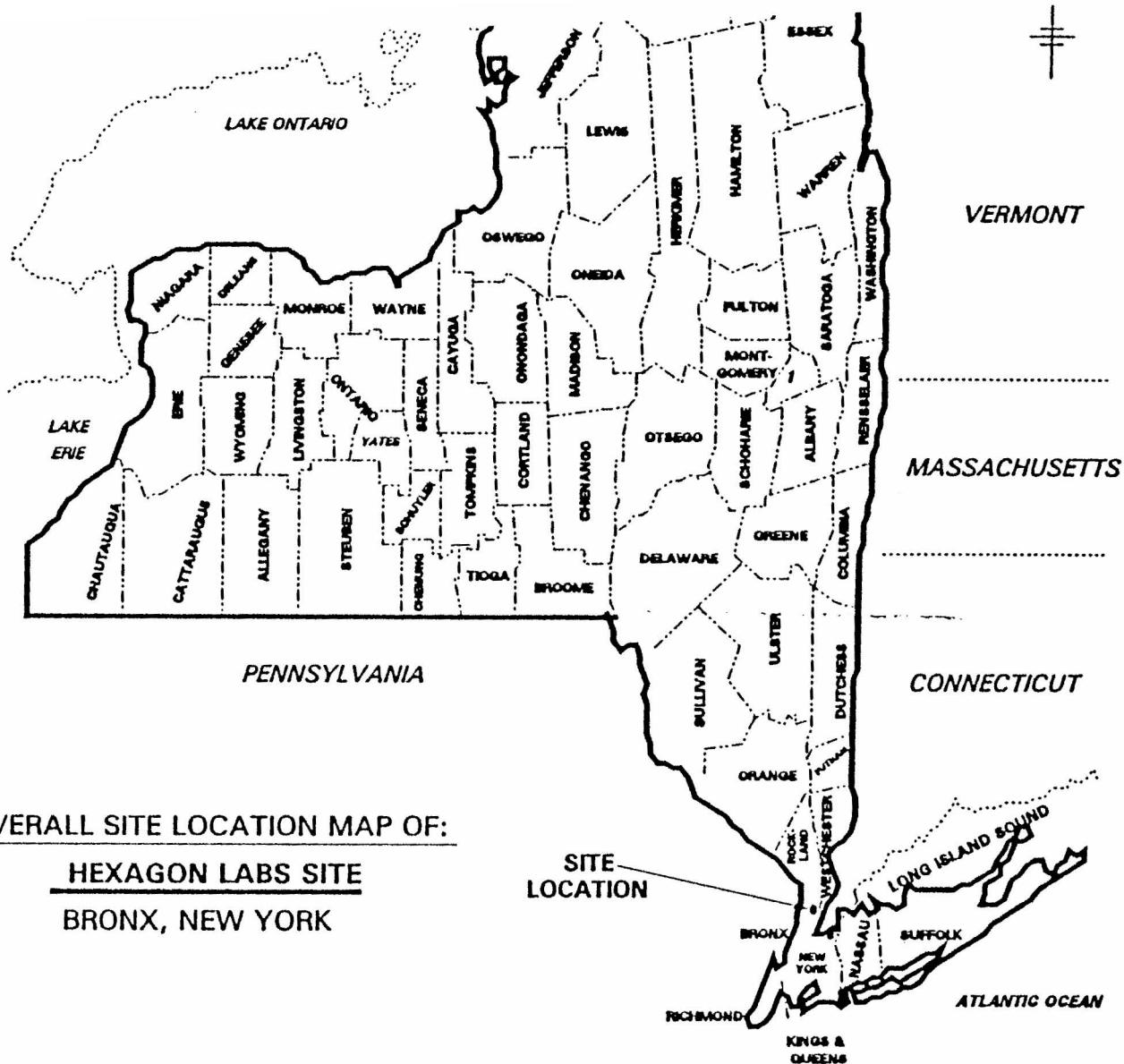
Disapproved: ~~William J. Muszynski~~ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Muszynski, P.E.  
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: (after approval is obtained)

K. Callahan, DRA  
G. Pavlou, ERRD-D  
R. Salkie, ERRD-ADREPP  
G. Zachos, ERRD-RAB  
J. Witkowski, ERRD-RAB-TSS  
C. Fitzsimmons, ERRD-TSS  
W. McCabe, ERRD-NY/CP  
J. Marshall, EPD  
E. Schaaf, ORC-NYCSUP  
A. Schmandt, ORC-NYCSUP  
R. Gherardi, OPM-FIN  
D. Dietrich, 5202G  
S. Becker, ERRD-PS  
M. O'Toole, NYSDEC  
T. Vickerson, NYSDEC  
C. Moyik, ERRD-PS  
T. Grier, 5202G  
J. Rosianski, EPD  
C. Kelley, TATL

**ADDENDUM A**

**MAPS AND OTHER GRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS**



**OVERALL SITE LOCATION MAP OF:**

**HEXAGON LABS SITE**  
**BRONX, NEW YORK**

**SITE  
LOCATION**

DWN. NOT TO SCALE



**Roy F. Weston, Inc.**  
**MAJOR PROGRAMS DIVISION**

**EPA PM**  
**C. Fitzsimmons**

**Figure I**

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH FOSTER WHEELER CORP.,  
C.C JOHNSON & MALHOTRA, P.C., RESOURCE  
APPLICATIONS, INC. AND R.E. SARRIERA ASSOCIATES**

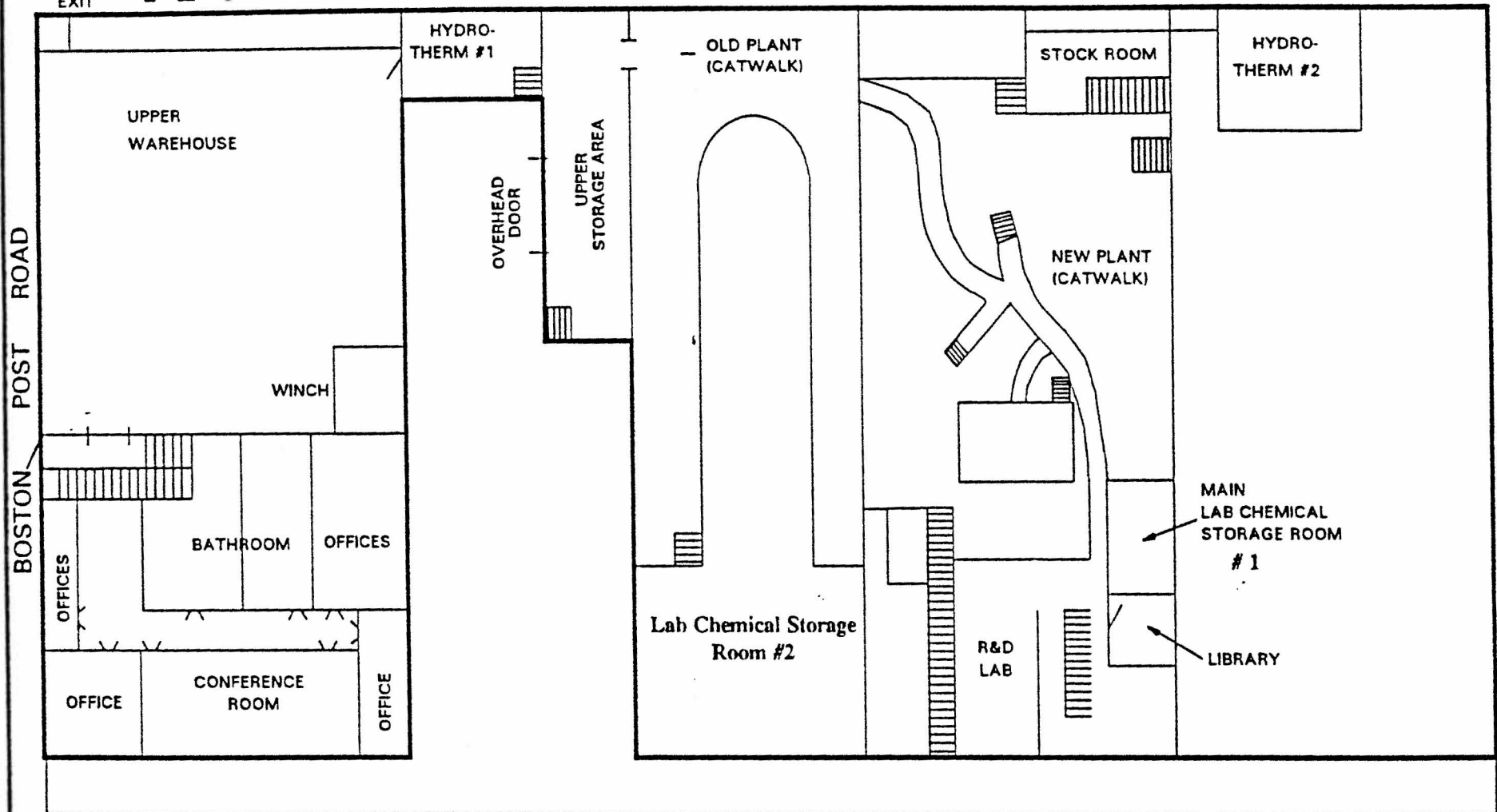
**TAT PM**  
**M. Hodanish**

**Site Location  
Map**



# HEXAGON LABS SECOND FLOOR DIAGRAM

FIRE  
EXIT



PEACHTREE

AVENUE



Roy F. Weston, Inc.  
MAJOR PROGRAMS DIVISION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH FOSTER WHEELER CORP.,  
C.C. JOHNSON & MALHOTRA, P.C., RESOURCE  
APPLICATIONS, INC. AND R.E. SARRIERA ASSOCIATES

EPA PM  
Charles Fritzsimmons

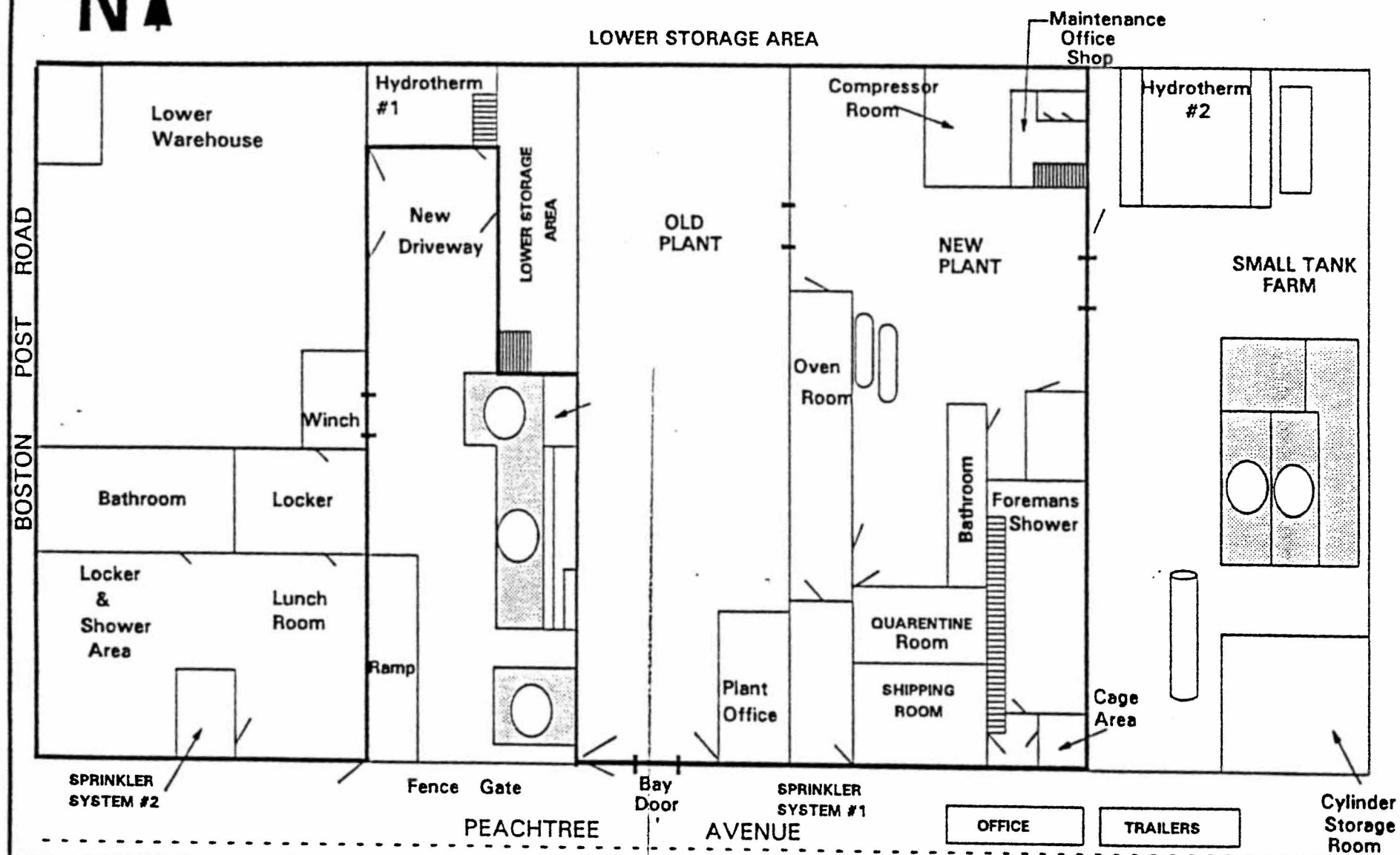
TAT PM  
Michael Hodanish

Figure III

Site Diagram  
2nd Floor



# HEXAGON LABS FIRST FLOOR DIAGRAM



Roy F. Weston, Inc.  
MAJOR PROGRAMS DIVISION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH FOSTER WHEELER CORP.,  
C.C JOHNSON & MALHOTRA, P.C., RESOURCE  
APPLICATIONS, INC. AND R.E. SARRIERA ASSOCIATES

EPA PM  
Charles Fitzsimmons

TAT PM  
Michael Hodanish

Figure IV

Site Diagram  
1st Floor

**ADDENDUM B**



Summary of Potential Toxicological  
Effects of Selected Identified Compounds

	Carcinogenicity					
		Teratogenic				
			Mutagenic			
				Toxic/Poison by Inhalation, Ingestion or Dermal Contact		
					Central Nervous System Effects	
					Irritant of Eye, Skin or Mucous Membrane	

Acetone						X
Acrylamide	X		X	X	X	X
Aniline				X	X	X
Bromobenzyl Cyanide				X	X	X
Chlorpromazine Hydrochloride		X	X	X		
Copper Cyanide				X	X	
Dioxane	X	X	X	X		
Ferric Chloride			X	X		X
Hexamethylene- Diamine		X		X		X
Sodium Nitrite	X	X	X	X		
Toluene		X	X	X	X	X

TAT-02-F-0301

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
HEXAGON LABS  
NEW YORK STATE, BRONX COUNTY, NEW YORK

Issued: August 25, 1992

Prepared By:  
U.S. EPA Technical Assistance Team  
Roy F. Weston, Inc.  
Major Programs Division  
Edison, New Jersey 08837

Prepared for:  
Charlie Fitzsimmons  
U.S. EPA Region II  
Response and Prevention Branch  
Edison, New Jersey 08837

## **I. BACKGROUND**

### **A. Site Description**

Hexagon Laboratories is a former chemical manufacturing facility which produced medicinal chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Hexagon began operations in 1946 and terminated operations in 1988 due to bankruptcy. Since that time, the facility has been "guarded" by a former employee of the company.

A preliminary site assessment conducted by the EPA Removal Action Branch and Technical Assistance Team on July 29 and 30 of 1992 revealed conditions that pose an imminent and substantial threat to the public health, welfare, and the environment. An inventory of the chemicals taken during the site assessment revealed approximately 600 various sized containers (10-85 gallon drums), and at least 2,500 laboratory chemicals stored in reagent sized containers. An additional 27 above ground and below-ground storage tanks are reported to exist on site. Based on the inventories and other available information, the chemical hazards include: potentially explosive materials, shock sensitives, water and air reactives, poisonous cylinders, carcinogens, flammables, oxidizers, and corrosives. In many cases, incompatible materials are stored in close proximity to one another.

### **B. National Priorities List**

This site is not proposed for or included on the NPL.

## **II. THREAT**

### **A. Threat Of Public Exposure**

The primary threat to public health posed by the site is the possibility of a release of the materials found on site to the environment.

### **B. Evidence of Extent of Release**

There is no evidence that any release of hazardous materials has recently occurred.

### C. Previous Actions To Abate Threat

The Director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation, requested EPA assistance to abate the public health and environmental threats posed by Hexagon Lab.

On July 3, 1990, the NYCDEP Division of Hazardous Materials Program discovered a number of extremely hazardous materials in one of the chemical storage rooms at Hexagon. With the assistance of New York City Police Bomb Squad, 14 containers of ether compounds were removed for off-site treatment at the City's detonation range.

In 1991, the site was investigated by the NYDEC and referred to EPA for immediate removal action based on the following findings. There were approximately 100 drums stored on site in the lower warehouse. Most of these have no labels or are in poor condition. Other materials believed to be on site include raw materials and reactives such as lithium and sodium metal. There are cylinders of unknown compressed gases on site. A laboratory on the second floor of the building contains numerous shelves filled with a variety of incompatible materials. They did not appear to be organized in any rational fashion.

### D. Current Actions To Abate Threat

On July 29-30, 1992, the USEPA and its Technical Assistance Team, Roy F. Weston Inc., conducted a preliminary site assessment at the facility.

In addition to haphazardly stored laboratory chemicals and many drums in poor condition stored on site, it was also discovered that the facility is in deteriorating physical condition and removal activities are necessary to safeguard the public welfare and the environment.

Removal activities began on July 30, 1992. For details on actions taken to date see EPA Pollution Reports (POLREPS) for this site.

In an effort to minimize the overall threat to the local population, the site has been secured and warning signs have been posted in affected areas. Sampling and subsequent disposal activities of all containerized hazardous materials are planned for the site.

### III. PROPOSED PROJECT

#### A. Objective Of The Project

The objective of this project is to mitigate the threat to public health and the environment posed by the hazardous materials stored at the site. This will be accomplished by the removal and off-site disposal of all containerized hazardous materials stored in the buildings and on the Hexagon property.

#### B. Project Tasks

The specific tasks necessary to accomplish the objectives of this project are as follows:

**Site Stabilization** - Repack deteriorated containers to prevent the migration of contaminants. Provide an enclosed work area to contain contaminants in the event of an airborne release during sampling or handling of hazardous materials.

**Sampling/Analysis** - Sample all containers greater than one gallon in size. Prepare composite samples of compatible materials, based on field analysis. Analyze the composite samples for disposal parameters.

**Inventory Labpacks** - Inventory all containers less than one gallon in size. Segregate these into knows (i.e. containers with labels that include a legible chemical name) and unknowns (containers with unknown contents).

**Classify Labpacks** - Classify knows by hazard category and separate into compatible groups. Field test unknowns to determine hazard category and then separate into compatibility groups.

**Repack Labpacks** - Repack compatible groups of small containers for shipment from site for disposal. Packing lists are sent to disposal facilities for approval prior to shipment from site.

**Transportation and Disposal** - Ship wastes from the site to for final disposal at CERCLA and RCRA approved treatment, storage or disposal facilities.

**Decontaminate Equipment** - Decontaminate trailers, equipment and materials used during the project, where necessary. Dispose of decontamination solution.

#### C. Objective Of The Community Relations Plan

1. Provide accurate and concise information to interested citizens, elected officials, and media.
2. Enlist the assistance of local officials as needed.

The groups to whom the plan is directed are: citizens, citizen groups, local school officials, local businesses, elected officials, and the media.

D. Community Relations Activities

<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
As needed	Distribute fact sheets	Inform public of removal progress	OSC
As appropriate	Attend meetings of community action groups	Inform community groups of removal progress	OSC

E. Key Officials and Contacts

Federal Agencies

Charlie Fitzsimmons  
On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region II,  
Response and Prevention Branch  
Edison, New Jersey 08837  
(201) 321-4345

Rich Cahill  
EPA Region II, External Programs Division  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY 10278  
(212) 264-2515

Elected Officials

US Representative

Congressman  
Eliot L. Engel  
177 Dreiser Place  
Bronx, New York  
718-320-2314

New York State Agencies

Department of Environmental Conservation  
Bureau of Hazardous Waste Investigation  
47-40 21st Street  
Long Island City, New York  
718-482-4995

New York State Health Department  
General Information  
450 Clarkson Ave.  
Brooklyn, New York  
718-270-1000

New York City Agencies

New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Environmental Management  
59-17 Junction Blvd.  
Elmhurst, Queens  
718-595-4412

New York State Officials

State Assemblyman

Steven B. Kaufman  
2114 Williamsbridge Rd.  
Bronx, New York  
718-829-7452

State Assemblyman

John C. Dearie  
67 Metropolitan Ave.  
Bronx, New York  
718-824-1900

State Assemblywoman

Gloria Davis  
1167 Boston Rd.  
Bronx, New York  
718-589-1070



New York City Officials

Mayor David Dinkins  
Mayor's Office  
City Hall  
New York City, New York  
1-212-788-3000

Fernando Ferrar  
Borough President  
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Bronx, NY 10457  
1-212-590-3500

Samuel Bea, Jr.  
District Manager  
Community Board #12  
4101 White Plains Road  
Bronx, NY 10466  
1-212-881-4455

Community Assistance Unit  
51 Chambers Street  
New York City, New York  
1-212-566-1553

Department of Public Works  
400 Broome St.  
New York, New York  
1-212-219-4364

Press Contacts

The Bronx Press Review Newspaper  
1924 Cross Bronx Expressway  
Bronx, New York  
718-823-5200

New York Newsday  
2 Park Avenue  
New York, New York  
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